

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 007848
ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 IO-14 ISO-00 PRS-01 H-02
SSM-05 SIG-02 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02
SP-02 SS-15 SSO-00 INRE-00 /091 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/P:WBHARRIS:DP
APPROVED BY NEA/P:GFSHERMAN
S/PRS - MR. CARTER (INFO)
H - MR. FLATEN (INFO)
SSM - MR. MC ANDREW
NEA - MR. NEUMANN
NEA/IAI - MR. SMITH
NEA/ARN - MR. DRAPER
NEA/EGY - MR. NEWBERRY
NEA/ARP - MR. TWINAM

-----122792 112351Z /64

O 112233Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
USMISSION SINAI
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LONDON
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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
USCINCEUR
DOD
JSC
CIA
USIA
NSC

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CINCEUR FOR POLAD; TEL AVIV FOR PAO, DELIVER BY 9 A.M.

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT:DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING - JANUARY 11, 1978

1. FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING FOR JANUARY 11. FYI ONLY,
OFFICER PRESENT TODAY WAS HODDING CARTER III.

Q. THE UNITED STATES WILL BE PARTICIPATING IN THE POLI-
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TICAL TALKS IN JERUSALEM NEXT WEEK, BUT NOT IN THE MILITARY
TALKS BEGINNING TODAY IN CAIRO.

ARE THERE ANY ARRANGEMENTS BY WHICH THE UNITED STATES WILL
BE INFORMED OR ACQUAINTED WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING THERE?

A. I AM SURE WE ARE GOING TO BE KEPT INFORMED. I DON'T
KNOW THE FORMAL ARRANGEMENT EXCEPT THAT THE REPORTING OF
OUR AMBASSADOR IS PRETTY EXTENSIVE AND IT IS OUR FEELING
THAT BOTH THE EGYPTIANS AND ISRAELIS HAVE BEEN VERY FORTH-
COMING IN REPORTING ON HOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES ARE MOVING.

Q. IN RELATION TO THE MIDDLE EAST TALKS AND DEVELOPMENTS
AND WHAT IS THE REACTION ACTUALLY OF THE SOVIET UNION TO
THE DEVELOPMENTS NOW AT THIS POINT?

A. I REALLY DON'T THINK THERE IS MUCH BEYOND THAT WHICH
YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE SOVIET PRESS. I DON'T THINK THERE
IS ANYTHING MORE CONDITIONAL. I MEAN I BELIEVE THAT THAT
FAIRLY ACCURATELY REFLECTS THEIR VIEWS.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SUBSTANTIATE JACK ANDERSON'S

COLUMN TODAY ON THE SOVIET ROLE?

A. NO. I SAW THAT. NO, I DON'T.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE SOVIET MILITARY SUPPLIES
INTO SYRIA IN RECENT WEEKS?

A. IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THEY HAVE A NEW AGREEMENT
WITH THE SYRIANS. I AM NOT SURE OF THE EXACT DATE. AND
THERE HAS BEEN SOME INCREASE IN SOVIET MILITARY SUPPLIES.
I DON'T HAVE A LIST FOR YOU.

Q. WOULD YOU FIND OUT WHAT SPECIFICALLY IS BEING INCREASED?

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A. YES. I WILL ASK THE QUESTION.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ON THE F-16'S TO SAUDI ARABIA?

A. I HAVE NOTHING MORE ON THAT THAN OUR LAST GO AROUND
ON IT.

2. THE FOLLOWING WAS POSTED IN THE DEPARTMENT TODAY IN
RESPONSE TO QUESTION TAKEN AT THE JANUARY 10 PRESS
BRIEFING:

Q. WHY WAS ATHERTON SEEING VARIOUS NATO AMBASSADORS
TODAY?

A. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON MET WITH 14 AMBASSADORS
FROM NATO COUNTRIES THIS MORNING TO GIVE THEM A REPORT
ON THE PRESIDENT'S TRIP. THIS IS A STANDARD PROCEDURE
FOLLOWING SUCH TRIPS.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

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